

**STATE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
FULL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
DOVER, DELAWARE**

Thursday, April 9, 2015

The April monthly meeting of the Delaware State Human Relations Commission was held by video-conference the Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Conference Room A, Dover, Delaware; and the Carvel Building, 820 N. French Street, 4th Floor Executive Conference Room, Wilmington, Delaware.

Attendance:

Commission Members Present: Chairperson Calvin Christopher. Commissioners Mashoor Awad, Whittona Burrell, Erika Caesar, Wallace Dixon, Stephen Elkins, Earnest Gulab, Rose Mary Hendrix, Doug James, Prameela Kaza, Gail Launay-Tarlecki, Nancy Maihoff, Lorenzo Murdaugh, Olga Ramirez, Walter Smith, Jr., Robert Watson, Jr. and Rosemarie Williams. Paige Schmittenger, DAG.

Commission Members not present: Commissioners Diaz Bonville (excused), Chok-Fun Chui (excused), Bernice Edwards (excused), Michael Harpe (excused), Misty Seemans (excused), and Roy Sudler, Jr. (unexcused).

Staff from Division of Human Relations Office: Romona Fullman, Vincent Petroff, and Kelly Fox.

Members of the public present: Fred Calhoun III, President, Delaware State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police and Brad Eaby.

I Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christopher at 7:10 p.m., followed by a period of silent meditation.

II Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the March SHRC meeting were submitted and reviewed. Commissioner Ramirez made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Kaza. A vote was taken, motion carries with no opposition.

III Members of the Public Present

Fred Calhoun, President, Delaware State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police was invited by the Commission as a follow-up to the recommendation that the SHRC support the repeal of the death penalty to share an opposing view for the repeal of the death penalty. Mr. Calhoun shared information on the Delaware State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police's position on the repeal of the death penalty. A discussion followed and Mr. Calhoun was thanked for joining the Commission this evening. .

IV Chair's Report

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leaders	Due Date
<u>Death Penalty</u> – Chair Christopher opened a discussion concerning the repeal of the death penalty. Commissioner Watson motioned that the Human Relations Commission support the repeal of the death penalty. Commissioner Launay-Tarlecki seconded the motion. Following discussion the vote was taken: 11 in favor, 2 opposed and 3 abstained from the vote. Motion carries.			
<u>Fair Housing Month</u> – Will be discussed during Director's Report.			
<u>Commission Bylaws Update</u> - Chair Christopher reported that the Legislative Committee will be leading the review with input from all Committee Chairs.	Review of Bylaws	Legislative Committee	Undefined
<u>Freedom of Information Act Training</u> - Additional training is needed and will be forthcoming.	Submit questions concerning FOIA to be reviewed.	All Commissioners	Undefined
	Training	Division/Attorney General office	Undefined
<u>Commission Vacancies</u> – There are currently vacancies on the Commission. Commissioners whose terms are expiring and who want to remain on the Commission were advised to complete applications for reappointment. Commissioners are not seeking	Submit application for reappointment/letter of resignation.	Commissioners whose terms are expiring	Undefined
	Submit referrals for	All Commissioners	Undefined

reappointment should submit a letter of resignation to the Governor, cc: the Chair and Division.	Commissioners		
<u>Dover Human Relations Commission</u> - Cecil Wilson Chair of the Dover Human Relations Commission from that Commission.	Keep Commission informed as information becomes available.	Chair Christopher	As information becomes available.
<u>Attorney General's Office of Civil Rights & Public Trust</u> – Chair Christopher and Director Fullman have been in contact with Director Allison Reardon. The office is still under construction and roles being defined.	Keep Commission informed as information becomes available.	Chair Christopher	As information becomes available.

V Director's Report

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leaders	Due Date
Director's report to be sent electronically following the meeting. There is additional information and links to articles available in the report.	Report to be sent electronically.	Director Fullman	Following meeting.
Director Fullman made the recommendation that Committees have Co-Chairs to ensure the Committee's business is not impeded by an absence of the Chair. Recommended identifying co-chair for each committee. Currently CRC has co-chairs.			
<u>Sussex Progressive Forum</u> – SHRC invited to be introduced and share info about the SHRC. Attendees included: Commissioners Ramirez, Smith, Gulab, Hendrix, James and Bonville. Director Fullman and Natalie Fountain also attended.			
<u>Fair Housing Month Activities</u> – The Division is hosting Community Conversations in each county on			

Wednesdays culminating with a Fair Housing Policy Conference on Tuesday, April 28 th . Director Fullman thanked Commissioners Williams, Burrell and Ramirez for attending the Kent County Community Conversation on April 8 th .			
SHRC members were urged to actively engage in community activities that increase awareness of the SHRC and its civil rights duties and responsibilities.			
<u>Human Relations Statistical Report</u> – Commissioner Awad asked for an update on the Statistical Report. Following the discussion it was agreed that the report will be reviewed.			

VI Committee Reports

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leader	Due Date
<p><u>Public Awareness Committee (PAW)</u> – Commissioner James reported – No April committee meeting. Another Comcast Newsmakers segment will be filmed in April again featuring Vince Petroff.</p> <p>Sussex Progressive Dinner – Commissioner James thought this event was a big success. They have reached out to him to meet with Sarah Gilmore and Faye Blake to meet at the Pathways to Success office next Thursday to talk about Fair Housing and their student program. Any Commissioners interested in joining the meeting advise Commissioner James.</p> <p>Commissioner James has called and left a message with the Cape Gazette article concerning the Selma screening. He is awaiting a return call.</p>	<p>Meeting with Sarah Gilmore and Faye Blake</p> <p>Any Commissioners interested in joining the meeting advise Commissioner James.</p>	<p>Commissioner James</p> <p>All Commissioners</p>	<p>April 16th</p> <p>Undefined</p>
<u>Legislative Committee</u> – Chair Christopher reported			

that he was advised by Commissioner Seemans that there was no meeting this month.			
<u>Community Response Committee(CRC)</u> – Commissioner Maihoff reported that the on March 30 th the Committee completed its mediation with the Cape Henlopen School District and the GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance). A report will be forthcoming. Peoples Place has invited the Commission to make a presentation in May on the mission of the Division and Commission. Date to be determined	Report of mediation to be sent to Chair Christopher and Paige Schmittenger for review. Peoples Place presentation	Commissioner Maihoff Vincent Petroff and Nicole Alston-Jackson	Undefined May
<u>Governor’s Council on Equal Employment Opportunity Committee</u> (GCEEEOC)– Commissioner Launay-Tarlecki reported the Committee’s April meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled May 6 th . The Committee continues to work on their strategic plan.			

VII Old Business

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leader	Due Date
Commissioner James asked in view of the earlier vote concerning the repeal of the death penalty he would like to renew the efforts to draft a letter of support prior to the next meeting. Chair Christopher asked that Commissioner James email the draft to all Commissioners prior to the next meeting for review.	Letter of support drafted	Commissioner James	Prior to the next Commission meeting.

VIII New Business

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leader	Due Date

Vincent Petroff shared that today is the 150 th anniversary of the Lee's surrender ending the Civil War.			
Commissioner Awad was invited by the Islamic Community in Dover to attend a hearing concerning building an Islamic Center in Dover. He attended and the meeting went well.			

IX Good News

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leader	Due Date
Commissioner Dixon announced that he is running for re-election to Dover City Council.			
Commissioner Maihoff will be leaving for a trip to China for 2 weeks.			
Commissioner Caesar reported that she gave birth to Stella Renee Caesar on March 22.			

XI Meeting Adjourned

The Commission meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:55 p.m. by Chair Christopher.